

NOTICE TO LITIGANTS

DISPUTE RESOLUTION CONFERENCES REQUIRED PROCEDURES AND TIME LINES

A **DISPUTE RESOLUTION CONFERENCE** will be held within 60 days of the Case Management Conference, unless the court for good cause shown orders otherwise. You will be notified by mail of the date, location and temporary judge(s) assigned to your case.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION CONFERENCES for personal injury cases will be conducted by two attorney temporary judges representing the plaintiff and defense bars, respectively. For other civil cases, they will be conducted by one attorney temporary judge. You may obtain a list of the attorneys on each panel from the ADR Administrator, Laureen Shuttleworth at (530) 621-7629, and the parties may agree on the temporary judge.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION CONFERENCES are conducted as early mandatory settlement conferences pursuant to CRC Rule 3.1380 which provides:

1. That trial counsel, parties and persons with full authority to settle the case shall personally attend the conference, unless excused by the court for good cause, and
2. That no later than five court days before the conference, each party shall submit to the court and serve on each party, a Mandatory Settlement Conference Statement containing a good faith settlement demand and an itemization of economic and non-economic damages by each plaintiff and a good faith offer of settlement by each defendant. The Mandatory Statement Conference Statement shall set forth and discuss in detail all facts and law pertinent to the issues of liability and damages involved in the case as to that party.

CRC Rule 2.30 authorizes the court to impose sanctions for failure to comply with the provisions of the rule.

You will be expected to have completed sufficient investigation, discovery and legal research to participate fully and in good faith in the Dispute Resolution Conference. The attorney temporary judge may continue the Dispute Resolution Conference from time to time, and you will be expected to participate in any continued Conference fully and in good faith.

It is important to review Local Rule 7.12.00, et seq., and El Dorado County's ADR Program with your client. It will increase the possibility of your client's case being resolved at an early, less expensive stage. The Superior Court Judges of El Dorado County strongly support the ADR Program.